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## Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable AL FRANKEN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

### PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Rev. Father Gregoire J. Fluet, pastor of Saint Bridget of Kildare Church, Moodus, CT.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

For our prayer this day, I paraphrase a prayer written in 1791 by the first American Catholic bishop, Archbishop John Carroll, making his words my own.

Let us pray.

We pray that You, O God of might, wisdom and justice, through whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment decreed would assist, with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude, the President of these United States; that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and eminently useful to Your people over whom he presides; by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion; by a faithful execution of the laws of justice and mercy; and by restraining vice and immorality.

Let the light of Your divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety, and useful knowledge; and may perpetuate to us the blessings of equal liberty.

We recommend likewise, to Your unbounded mercy, all our brethren and fellow citizens throughout the United States, that they may be blessed in Your most holy law; that they may be preserved in union, and in that peace which the world cannot give. Great God, make of us a virtuous people, and allow us to walk always in Your love.

We beseech You to send Your special blessings and graces upon these elected leaders.

In Your Name, we pray. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable AL FRANKEN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, November 30, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable AL FRANKEN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. FRANKEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Connecticut.

### WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, it was a great honor to have Father Gregoire Fluet, my parish priest in East Haddam, CT, provide the opening prayer this morning. I thank him immensely for his words. Reaching back to Archbishop Carroll was a wonderful way to begin the session.

Father Fluet is not only my parish priest, Mr. President. He is a dear

friend and practically a member of my extended family. Father Fluet and I first met nearly 30 years ago when he was pastor of St. Joseph's Church in North Grosvenordale, CT. Since his appointment in 1998 as pastor of my home parish, Saint Bridget of Kildare in East Haddam, Father Fluet has been an important figure in my life, providing spiritual advice and counsel to me on a number of occasions. Father Fluet has also played an important role in the lives of my two daughters, Grace and Christina. He baptized both of them after they were born, and provided religious instruction and first communion to my older daughter, Grace.

In addition to being a great spiritual leader, Father Fluet has long dedicated himself to the study of our Nation's history and particularly to the history of New England. Ever the consummate scholar, Father Fluet was awarded a doctorate in American History by Clark University in 2002, taught Western Civilization and World History as an adjunct professor at Quinebaug Valley Community College in Danielson, CT, and even published a history of the Diocese of Norwich.

But beyond his love of history, Father Fluet has always, first and foremost, demonstrated an unshakeable commitment to his flock and the people of our community. He is a wonderful human being, and I am confident that Saint Bridget of Kildare will continue to be blessed for years to come by Father Fluet's dedicated spiritual leadership.

Once again, I would like to reiterate what a true honor it has been to listen to Father Fluet's words this morning. Thank you for taking the time to be here today, Father Fluet. But most of all, thank you for everything you have done over the years for the people of our community.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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